



ISSUE # 2

AUGUST 13, 2010

FEED THE FUTURE E-NEWSLETTER

Feed the Future (FTF) is the U.S. government’s global hunger and food security initiative. This newsletter is designed to inform development partners and stakeholders about the U.S. government’s efforts to address the underlying causes of hunger and food insecurity. Please visit www.feedthefuture.gov for more information.

In This Issue:

WHAT IS FEED THE FUTURE?	1
MEET THE LEADERSHIP	2
FEED THE FUTURE NEWS	2
Food Security Highlighted at AGOA Forum.....	2
International Food Aid and Development Conference Notes	3
FTF Supports Country Leadership in West Africa.....	4
Asian and Pacific Countries Work Toward Common Approach to Food Security Planning	4
Multi-Donor Trust Fund Commits \$224 M to Increase Food Security in Five Countries	5
Leveraging U.S. Research to Benefit Farmers Worldwide.....	6
INSIGHTS FROM THE FIELD.....	6
Advanced Technology Reaches Millions of South Asian Farmers	6
MEET THE FTF TEAM.....	7
UPCOMING EVENTS	7

WHAT IS FEED THE FUTURE?

Feed the Future (FTF) is the United States government’s global hunger and food security initiative through which the U.S. works with partner countries, development partners, and other stakeholders to sustainably tackle the root causes of global poverty and hunger.

Feed the Future stems from the 2009 G8 Summit in L’Aquila, Italy where global leaders committed to “act with the scale and urgency needed to achieve sustainable global food security.” At L’Aquila, President Obama’s pledge of at

least \$3.5 billion for agricultural development and food security over three years helped to leverage and align more than \$18.5 billion from other donors in support of a common approach. The principles of this approach are known as the Rome Principles and guide Feed the Future:

- Invest in country-owned plans
- Strengthen strategic coordination
- Ensure a comprehensive approach
- Leverage the benefits of multilateral institutions
- Deliver on sustained and accountable commitments

Through *Feed the Future*, we will *see the future* by supporting partner countries develop their own agriculture and food security plans; *feed the future* through sustainable and strategic investments in agriculture and nutrition enabling countries to improve the availability, access and utilization of food for their own citizens; and *change the future* by increasing incomes for millions of the developing world's most vulnerable people and reducing the number of stunted and underweight children by millions.

To become more involved in Feed the Future, please visit www.feedthefuture.gov and click on "Get Involved."

[Back to top](#)

MEET THE LEADERSHIP

An announcement is forthcoming for the Global Hunger and Food Security Coordinator, and two Deputy Coordinators are already leading the U.S. effort: one responsible for diplomacy and the other for development. The Deputy Coordinators are responsible for implementing FTF, including ensuring that all relevant United States government agencies and departments are engaged in the process. Ambassador Patricia M. Haslach, Deputy Coordinator for Diplomacy, and Ambassador William J. Garvelink, Deputy Coordinator for Development, began in their roles in late May 2010.



Ambassador Bill Garvelink



Ambassador Pat Haslach

Ambassador Haslach is responsible for donor coordination, initiative operations and outcomes, and engagement with bilateral and multilateral partners and with International Organizations. Ambassador Garvelink is responsible for the planning and implementation of Feed the Future in developing countries and for U.S. government oversight of country-planning.

For complete biographies of the Deputy Coordinators, please visit <http://www.feedthefuture.gov/leadership.html>.

[Back to top](#)

FEED THE FUTURE NEWS

Food Security Highlighted at AGOA Forum

Feed the Future was highlighted by top U.S. leadership at the ninth Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum, which took place on August 2-3 at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C., and August 4-6 in Kansas City, Missouri. The Forum brought together more than 600 participants, including senior U.S. and African officials, as well as U.S. and African members of the private sector and civil society.

In her [remarks](#) at the event, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said, “The Feed the Future Initiative is an example of the Obama Administration’s new focus on local solutions and greater regional integration.” She went on to explain that regional integration makes it easier to shift food from areas that have a surplus to those with shortages, increasing availability and reducing volatility of prices. Secretary Clinton emphasized that greater regional market access for seeds, fertilizers, and crops also increases producers’ incentives to make sustained investments in agricultural technologies.

“The Feed The Future Initiative is an example of the Obama Administration’s new focus on local solutions and greater regional integration,” Secretary Clinton said at the AGOA Forum. “We are supporting efforts such as ECOWAS’s regional agriculture development and food investment plan, while working with you to streamline trade corridors in Western Africa.”

Ambassador Pat Haslach, FTF Deputy Coordinator for Diplomacy, also moderated a panel discussion at the Forum on food security, which included USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, COMESA Secretary General Sindiso Ngwenya, Dr. Gabre-Mahdin, Chief Executive Officer of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange, Thad Simons, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Novus International, Inc., and Franklin Moore, Deputy Assistant Administrator for USAID/Africa. Panel presentations focused on the role of the private sector in addressing food security needs, discussing both opportunities and challenges. All the panelists recognized

the potential of the agriculture sector to grow in Africa, especially with greater value addition capacity. However, many challenges remain including the lack of infrastructure and enabling environments. For U.S. businesses there is the additional challenge of changing the business model from supplying large scale commercial farms to providing goods and services to individual smallholder farms.

To read more about agriculture and trade in Sub-Saharan Africa, click here to read an America.gov article featuring Jim Miller, the under secretary for farm and foreign agricultural services at USDA: [Agriculture, Food Security Are Major Focus of AGOA 2010](#).

[Back to top](#)

International Food Aid and Development Conference Notes

The International Food Aid and Development Conference (IFADC), the largest food aid and agricultural development conference in the U.S., was held in Kansas City from August 2 – 4, 2010. The conference, co-hosted by USDA and USAID, brings together hundreds of stakeholders from around the globe to discuss food security and agricultural issues. Feed the Future featured prominently in discussion panels and the co-keynote address was delivered by FTF Deputy Coordinator for Development Ambassador Bill Garvelink and by USDA Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Jim Miller.



Credit: Thony Belizaire / AFP

For additional information and highlights, click on the following:

- Co- Keynote [Remarks by Ambassador William J. Garvelink](#), FTF Deputy Coordinator for Development
- [Feed the Future Update from the International Food Aid and Development Conference](#): USDA blog by USDA FTF Coordinator Ann Tutwiler
- [U.S. to spend \\$3.5 billion on global food aid - KansasCity.com](#)

[Back to top](#)

FTF Supports Country Leadership in West Africa

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Food Security Business Meeting was held on June 14-17 in Dakar, Senegal. The meeting followed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) process and provided an opportunity for 11 ECOWAS member states and the ECOWAS regional community to present Country Investment Plans to a broad group of stakeholders and development partners. The meeting opened with statements by the President of Senegal, Abdoulaye Wade, and several other high level officials, including USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah. Prior to the meeting, seven plans were formally reviewed by an external technical team, the majority of whom were from Africa. Members of the interagency U.S. Feed the Future team also participated in technical reviews. Over the course of the three-day Business Meeting, the technical reviews were discussed and countries began to lay out road maps of actions needed to ready the plans for implementation.

Of the participating countries involved, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Mali are potential FTF focus countries (ECOWAS is also a potential focus regional program). Other countries presenting plans included: Togo, Sierra Leone, Benin, Niger, the Gambia, and Guinea. African Ministers of Agriculture and CAADP representatives were extremely appreciative of the hard work that went into the development of the plans and impressed with the technical rigor of the reviews.

The U.S. interagency delegation to the Business Meeting in Dakar was led by USAID Administrator Shah and FTF Deputy Coordinators for Diplomacy and Development Patricia Haslach and William Garvelink. Several donors, including Spain, the United Kingdom, France, the European Commission, The Netherlands, Canada, Germany, Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea participated in the meetings. Multilateral organizations such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the UN High Level Task Force, the World Food Program (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) also participated.

Private sector representatives played an active role in the meetings by providing formal responses to country presentations and participating in a panel where representatives ranging from small to medium enterprises to a large multinational bank discussed the role of the private sector in the implementation of investment plans. Companies representing the private sector included Ecobank, Constelor Resources, AgriServe, Premium Foods and Pioneer HiBred (a DuPont business).

In addition to the meetings in Dakar, the interagency FTF team also participated in high-level technical reviews in Haiti and Bangladesh (for more information see the [previous issue of the FTF E-Newsletter](#)). To review the U.S. government plans to lay the groundwork for supporting country-led food security strategies, see the [Feed the Future FY 2010 Implementation Plans](#).

[Back to top](#)

Asian and Pacific Countries Work Toward Common Approach to Food Security Planning



Credit: Farooq Naeem/ AFP

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) hosted the Food for All Investment Forum for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific in Manila, Philippines on July 7-9. More than 400 delegates from regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, and the donor community attended the Forum, which was co-hosted by the ADB, FAO, and IFAD, with financial support from USAID and the Asia Foundation.

Through the presentation of case studies by India, Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, China, and the Pacific Sub-Region, the Forum highlighted the need for integrated strategies for food security,

rural development, and nutrition throughout the region. Innovative investment strategies were discussed in breakout sessions that featured a wide range of development partners, including NGOs and private sector partners. The U.S. delegation was led by Ambassador Patricia Haslach, Deputy Coordinator for Diplomacy for FTF, who participated in a roundtable with other donor partners active in the region, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IFAD, ASEAN, FAO, Japan, Canada, and the EU.

Common themes that emerged from the Forum included an emphasis on novel partnerships, taking advantage of the wealth of innovative investment strategies that have been developed in the region, and the importance of country ownership of the planning and implementation process. At the conclusion of the Forum, the ADB, FAO and IFAD presented a Regional Food Security Partnership Framework to support the countries of the region in their efforts to achieve food security. The Framework will be formally signed in September in New York during the MDG Summit.

For more information, please visit the [conference website](#).

[Back to top](#)

Multi-Donor Trust Fund Commits \$224 M to Increase Food Security in Five Countries

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), a multi-donor trust fund designed to tackle global hunger and poverty, announced on June 21 that five developing countries will receive the funds' first grants, totaling \$224 million.

"GAFSP is aligned with our vision of a world free from hunger," said Begum Matia Chowdhury, Bangladesh's Minister of Agriculture. "We thank development partners for their contributions and urge all to do more in order to help bring the poor people of the world out of hunger and poverty as quickly as possible."

The GAFSP Steering Committee has an equal number of voting members from donor and recipient countries and includes representation from civil society representatives in a non-voting capacity. The Committee selected the five successful proposals, listed below, based on recommendations from a committee of technical experts. Successful country proposals demonstrated a high level of need, a supportive policy environment and a comprehensive plan for agricultural development.

- **Bangladesh (\$50 million):** Finance irrigation infrastructure and adoption of improved seed varieties to enhance resilience of smallholders against tidal surges, flash floods and frequent droughts.
- **Rwanda (\$50 million):** Transform hillside agriculture by reducing erosion and bolstering productivity through terracing infrastructure.
- **Sierra Leone (\$50 million):** Boost income of smallholders through development of small-scale irrigation systems, better inputs, and linking farms to market.
- **Togo (\$39 million):** Bolster yield and reduce post-harvest losses through construction of irrigation systems and rural roads, provision of improved seed varieties, and better smallholder access to affordable credit.
- **Haiti (\$35 million):** Raise productivity of smallholder farmers, especially women, by improving access to seeds, fertilizers and technology.



Credit: Tony Karumba / AFP

The program will consider a second set of proposals, which are due on October 1, 2010. For more information, visit the [GAFSP website](#).

[Back to top](#)

Leveraging U.S. Research to Benefit Farmers Worldwide

At the 2010 World Food Prize ceremony on June 16, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah announced details of the Feed the Future research strategy, which includes a new partnership between USAID and USDA.

"If we are to feed the future without leveling the forests, draining the aquifers, and depleting the soil of all its nutrients, we need science. Today we are announcing the Norman Borlaug Commemorative Research Initiative, to leverage the work of our nation's scientists to benefit farmers in developing countries worldwide," Secretary Clinton said.

As part of Feed the Future, research investments will focus on priorities that advance the productivity frontier, transform production systems and enhance nutrition and food safety. The Borlaug Initiative will span the USDA's research agencies, increasing its relevance and impact on problems and opportunities faced by both U.S. farmers



Credit: Thony Belizaire / AFP

and smallholder farm families in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This expanded relationship will add to USDA and USAID's partnerships with U.S. universities, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the private sector, and research organizations in developing countries. National agricultural research systems in developing countries will be strengthened through these research collaborations, which will also link to country-level investments under FTF and from other sources.

Read [highlights](#) from the event or view a [summary](#) of the FTF research strategy.

[Back to top](#)

INSIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

Advanced Technology Reaches Millions of South Asian Farmers

The Cereals Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) is reaching out to more than six million small farmers in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal to help them substantially boost crop yields and their income within 10 years.

Rising energy and fertilizer costs, diminishing water supply, and projected climate changes are major constraints for farmers in South Asia – a region with nearly half a billion people already living on less than US\$1 a day. CSISA provides farmers access to high-yielding, heat and drought tolerant, disease resistant seeds and farming practices that conserve water, energy and fertilizer. The program brings together public and private sector research, education and extension organizations to develop and distribute new crop varieties, sustainable cropping systems management practices, and agricultural policies. Assistance is made available to local farmers through “service centers” that provide a



Credit: Thony Belizaire / AFP

range of goods and services, including information on the latest technology and better resource management practices. Project hubs organized around service centers in each country are used to test and disseminate research, such as advanced breeding technology and locally tailored sustainable cropping systems.

By producing at least five million tons of more grain a year as a result of CSISA, millions of poor rural households in South Asia will increase their annual income by at least \$350 a year. The combined funding for the first three years for CSISA, which is led by the International Rice Research Institute, includes over \$15 million from USAID and almost \$20 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

[Back to top](#)

MEET THE FTF TEAM

In each issue of the FTF E-Newsletter, we will profile a different member of the interagency FTF team.



Dr. Josette Lewis has been leading USAID's food security strategy development since the food price crisis of 2008. In the past year, she has served on the interagency team that has shaped and launched the FTF initiative. Dr. Lewis has been instrumental in the development of a new agricultural research strategy that will elevate and focus our investments in science and technology to impact poverty and undernutrition.

As the Director of the Office of Agriculture in USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade, Dr. Lewis brings together the best technical expertise from across the Agency and through development partners for the Agency's development activities in agriculture.

Prior to taking this position, Dr. Lewis served as the Agency's Senior Biotechnology Advisor for eleven years, overseeing USAID's biotechnology research and policy activities globally, with a significant emphasis on Africa. Dr. Lewis joined USAID as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Diplomacy Fellow. She holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology for University of California, Los Angeles and a B.S. in Genetics from University of California at Davis.

[Back to top](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 24-25 (Kenya) [*Southern Sudan Agriculture Consultative Conference*](#)

September 2-3 (Accra, Ghana) [*African Green Revolution 2010 Forum*](#)

September 14-16 (Washington) [*2010 Global Youth Enterprise and Livelihoods Development Conference*](#)

September 20-22 (New York) [*2010 MDG Summit*](#)

September 21-23 (Durban, South Africa) [*Africa Agriculture & Food Security Conference & Expo 2010*](#)



Credit: Noel Celis / AFP

Please [email our team](#) with other events for inclusion in this section of the newsletter.

To learn more about Feed the Future or to become more involved, please visit www.feedthefuture.gov.

To [subscribe](#) to the Feed the Future monthly e-Newsletter, please visit www.feedthefuture.gov and submit your name and email address in the sidebar. To [unsubscribe](#) from the Feed the Future monthly e-Newsletter, send an

email to listserv@info.usaid.gov with the following command in the text (not the subject) of your message:
unsubscribe FeedtheFuture

[Back to top](#)